crops in nearly 2000 paras of paddy fields were submerged in water every year during the rainy season. The canal was now almost complete, and only three quarters of a mile remained to be opened. This should be finished soon.

(2) The Puthanangadi road should be connected with the A. S. road. The people of Charamangalam, Varanam, Srikantamangalam etc. had no access to the A. S. road. They could reach the road only by walking through knee-deep sand. If however a road was opened connecting the A. S. road with the Alleppey—Thannirmukkam village road, this difficulty could be easily removed.

(3) A road should be opened from Muhamma to Kanjikuzhi. Muhamma was a busy trading centre. There was a market and a bazaar at the place. It was necessary that there should be a connection by land between this place and Kanjikuzhi as the water route by the Vempanad lake was a dangerous one.

(4) There should be a police station near Varanam Puthanangady. There were more toddy shops in the Shertallai taluk than in any other taluk and also a corresponding number of criminal cases. From Puthanangadi to the Shertallai police station, the distance was 6 miles and to the Kanjikuzhi police station the distance was 8 miles. Moreover there were no police stations anywhere along the water route from Kuthiathode to Alleppey. Journey by this route was not therefore quite safe. Besides, at Puthanangadi there was a public market, where police supervision was absolutely necessary. For these reasons, a police station should be established at Puthanangadi.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Maitheen Kunju Kochunni, the first mile of the extension of the Tannirmukkam Puthen todu to the Kattachira todu is now being completed and the question of carrying out the remaining mile is now under consideration.

MEMBER: It is now five years since it was sanctioned. All the works which were done have now disappeared.

DEWAN: I shall ask the Chief Engineer to go into the matter again.

In regard to the extension of the Puttanangadi road to the A. S. road it will be investigated. So too with the Muhamma-Kanjikuzhi road.

MEMBER: The road was first constructed 30 feet wide, now the width is reduced to 15 feet.

DEWAN: The Police Commissioner is of opinion that a police station is not necessary at Puttanangadi.

MEMBER: That is very hard.

DEWAN: That is what the Police Commissioner reports.

120. Needs of the Shertallai taluk.

MR. N. R. KRISHNAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Ponnamveli market was one of the important markets in Shertallay. The chief articles of merchandise in this market consisted of coir, copra and fish. These were brought from the beach. But there was no proper way from the beach to this market. Articles could be brought from the beach by boat to the Paripilli canal. From there they had to be taken in head-loads through several private compounds. But the owners of these lands would allow people to go that way, only if they were paid for it. It was indeed very hard for poor people to pay this kind of bakshish out of what was their day's earning and sole means of maintenance. A road should therefore be constructed from the beach to the Ponnamveli market. It would only be a mile in length. The land required for the road had certainly to be acquired by Government. The landowners would not give the lands free, because by the opening of the road they would be losing a daily income.

Another need of the taluk was the early opening of the canal which Government had already sanctioned from the Paripilli canal to the Ponnamveli market.

Lastly, the English school at Shertallai should be converted into a High School and a separate school should be sanctioned for girls.

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DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Krishnan, the whole question of roads and communications as apart from the main arterial communications is receiving the attention of the Chief Engineer who proposes to have a systematic programme of work drawn up, and I have no doubt that the views advocated by you to-day will receive attention when that programme is drawn up.

In regard to the girls' school at Shertallai Government have now before them certain proposals of the Director of Public Instruction for more English schools throughout the State. This will be taken up in conjunction with those proposa s.

121. Needs of the Vaikom taluk.

MR. SANKARA PILLAI MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Member, Vaikom taluk*) said that the Vaikom-Vechur road, the Vaikom-Thirumanivenkitapuram road, the Vaikom-Vazhamana road and the Palankadavu-Thalayolaparambu road should be metalled. A new road should be opened from the Vaikom Kolothum Kadavu to the Puthantodu along the banks of the lake and all the Sirkar buildings at Vaikom should be shifted to this road. Another new road should be opened from Nerekadavu to the Vadayattu bridge *via* Udayanapuram and Irumpuzhikara. The ryots' roads from Kallaravadakkekara to Ayamkudi and from Kaduthuruth to Gnizhur should be taken over for maintenance by Government.

The following canals should be widened and deepened:—

Kaniyan todu,
Perunchilavan todu,
Anchumana todu,
Kallara todu,
Chulli todu.

In regard to education, an English girls' school should be opened in the Vaikom town and two Higher Grade Vernacular Schools, one at Kallara and the other at Idayazham.

As regards medical relief, a dispensary should be established at Kaduthuruthi.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Sankara Pillai Madhavan Pillai, the improvement of the Vaikom-Vechoor road is proceeding so as to render it fit for cart traffic. There is provision for gravelling the road. So, the question of metalling it at the same time does not arise. Similarly, the Chief Engineer considers that the gravelling of the Vaikom-Tirumanivenkitapuram road is desirable and he is going to take that now, as soon as it is sanctioned.

The Vaikom-Vazhamana road is one which it is proposed to hand over to the municipality who will no doubt carry out whatever improvements are necessary.

In regard to the Palankadavu-Talayolaparambu road an estimate for improving this road was sanctioned 10 days ago. There is provision for gravelling it wherever necessary.

Then as regards the other roads these require to be investigated. I should think that the Kolothumkadavu-Puthan todu road scheme is a large item of expenditure involving several lakhs of rupees.

Widening and deepening of Kaniyan todu. This has been dragging on for the last four years. Sanction has been accorded. However the land acquisition is being completed and the land handed over to the P. W. D. The work will proceed rapidly now.

I have already replied about the widening of the Perunchilavan todu. The widening and deepening of the Anchumana todu was carried out under a special estimate and the improvement of it will be done year by year out of the maintenance grant. The Government are now considering certain recommendations from the Chief Engineer for the widening of the Kallara and Chulli todus without detriment to the cultivation.

In regard to an English girls' school at Vaikom, there is already one private school there. The manager of the school has applied to the Director of Public Instruction for permission to raise the standard of the school.

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